



FORESTERRA

Enhancing Forest REsearch in the MediTERRanean
through improved coordination and integration



FORESTERRA Kickoff

The **FORESTERRA** International Project (Enhancing Forest Research in the Mediterranean through improved coordination and integration), whose aim is to strengthen the scientific coordination and integration of programs that study Mediterranean forest research programs, was launched with its kickoff meeting on the 9th and 10th of February in Madrid, bringing together members from the sixteen institutions involved.

The kickoff was opened by Carmen Vela, the Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation of Spain's Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO); Emilio Lora-Tamayo, the president of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC); Francisco Mombiela, the Secretary General of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM); and Risto Paivinen, the Director of the European Forest Institute (EFI).

Ignacio Atorrasagasti, Sub-Director of International Programs of MINECO; Rocío Lansac (MINECO), the coordinator of FORESTERRA; and Marc Palahí, Director of EFIMED, the secretariat of the project, were the meeting's organizers.

The four-year initiative, which has a budget of almost two million euros, is an ERA-NET, a tool created by the European Commission to improve the coordination and cooperation among different entities working in European research and to overcome barriers to Europe's scientific and technological potential. This tool also envisions cooperation with countries outside Europe. The FORESTERRA project has participants from twelve countries (France, Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia, Croatia, Greece, Algeria, Portugal, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain) as well as two international institutions, EFI and CIHEAM.



Rosa R. Bernabé (MINECO) Carmen Vela, Emilio Lora-Tamayo, Rocío Lansac

The project also seeks to strengthen already existing relationships with institutions outside the Mediterranean basin, in areas that have this same type of climate, such as Australia, Chile, South Africa and California in the USA. Currently, project members are in touch with the University of Berkeley (California, United States), the University of New South Wales (Australia) and the Industrial Engineering School of the University of Chile, among other institutions.



Julio Barbas (MINECO) Ignacio Atorrasagasti, Marc Palahí

During the kickoff, which took place in the CSIC's prestigious Residencia de Estudiantes, participants explained the activities that their organizations are going to implement over the course of the project. The coordination of the project is led by Spain's Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), and the European Forest Institute (EFIMED) is in charge of the Secretariat.

The next meeting is planned for June, 2012, in Tunisia.



Group photo outside the Residencia de Estudiantes